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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11**  
**46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**  
**INTRODUCED BY**  
**Miguel P. Garcia**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**  
**REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ELIMINATE THE**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT OF THE SPANISH GENERAL**  
**EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TESTS.**

**WHEREAS, the New Mexico general educational development**  
**testing program of the public education department administers**  
**the general educational development tests to persons who have**  
**not graduated from an accredited high school; and**

**WHEREAS, general educational development certificates are**  
**issued to residents who have successfully completed the general**  
**educational development tests; and**

**WHEREAS, to successfully complete the general educational**  
**development tests, a person must pass tests in writing, social**  
**studies, science, mathematics and art and literature; and**

**WHEREAS, the New Mexico general educational development**  
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1 testing program of the public education department also  
2 administers a Spanish language version of the general  
3 educational development tests; and

4 WHEREAS, the program requires persons taking the Spanish  
5 language version of the general educational development tests  
6 to pass an English proficiency subject in addition to the  
7 writing, social studies, science, mathematics and art and  
8 literature subjects required by the English language version of  
9 the general educational development tests; and

10 WHEREAS, the additional subject matter is burdensome to  
11 test takers who choose to take the Spanish language version of  
12 the general educational development tests because they are not  
13 yet proficient in English; and

14 WHEREAS, other states do not impose the additional English  
15 proficiency requirement on general educational development test  
16 takers; and

17 WHEREAS, several employers require at least a general  
18 educational development certificate or a high school diploma  
19 for certain positions of employment; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico residents who did not successfully  
21 complete the general educational development tests due to the  
22 English proficiency requirement must compete with job  
23 applicants from other states who successfully completed the  
24 general educational development tests in other states without  
25 meeting an English proficiency requirement; and

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